(d) The quantum of total loss on Coaching Services on Indian Railways during the year 1994-95 was Rs. 1927 crores. Zonal-wise losses are not maintained.

Toxic effects of DDT

1380. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDT is toxic and has been found very injurious to health;

(b) whether it remains in the soil for years and poisons soil and water;

(c) the reasons why Government have not banned DDT which is banned in USA and other countries; and

(d) the reason for not availing of the technology developed by Prof. Anand Chakrabarty of Illinois University, USA for oil spill eating microbes in place of DDT as reported in the Times of India dated the 8th January, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Pesticides including DDT are toxic in nature. These toxic substances can be injurious to health if they are not used as per recommended practices.

(b) DDT belongs to the organochlorine group of pesticides and as such is persistent in nature. However, its degradation in tropical conditions is faster as compared to temperate regions.

(c) Continued use of DDT has been reviewed by the Government from time to time since 1984. At present, its use in public health programme is permitted upto 10,000 metric tonnes per annum. The use of DDT in Agriculture was withdrawn in May, 1989.

(d) 'Microbe' reportedly capable os breaking down DDT into a lesser harmful compound is not commercially available.

Compensation to victims of Earthquakes of Latur-Osmanabad and UttarKashi

1381. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that victims of the major earthquakes of Latur-Osmanbad belt and UttarKashi are still to get compensation and rehabilitation aid, 3-4 years after the enormous human toll;

(b) if so, the number of persons at each place still awaiting compensation and rehabilitation aid, indicating the percentage of total number of victims they constitute; and

(c) how may families have since been provided with proper housing units, indicating the Central and International aid given for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTUTE (SHRI CHATURANAN): (a) to (c) According to the information recieved from the State Governments, dependents of only 142 deceased persons in Latur and 180 in Osmanabad, representing 4.15% of of the total deceased persons are awaiting ex-gratia financial assistance. The delay is mainly because of disputes over legal heirs. Dependents of all the victims of the Uttarkashi earthquake have been provided ex-gratia financial assistnace.

An Emergency Earthquake Rehabilitation programme costing Rs. 1181.81 crores is under implementation for rehabilitation of the victims of Maharashtra earthquake of September, 1993. The programme is financed 75% by the International Development Association credit, 12% by the contribution of the Government of Maharashtra, o.5% by the contribution of the Government of India and 12.5% by the donors including Overseas Development Agency, U.K., and the Asian Development Bank. Under the programmes, 13826 houses have so far been constructed out of the targeted